



Assisted Search Program

In 1993, the State of Oregon passed legislation that allows Oregon adoption agencies to perform confidential searches. For a fee an eligible person who has registered with Boys & Girls Aid can request the agency conduct a search. BGAid will make an effort to locate, contact and inform the person being sought of the search law. In accordance with Oregon Adoption Law, the persons eligible to request a search are:

- * An adult adoptee
- * A birth parent
- * A parent of a deceased birth parent
- * An adoptive parent of a deceased adoptee
- * Adult genetic siblings of an adoptee (birthparent must be deceased)
- * An adult sibling of a deceased birth parent

When a client requests that a search be conducted, an application form with service information is sent to the requestor. This includes a copy of Oregon Adoption Laws. The application must be notarized and a copy of your birth certificate must be attached. If birthparent is deceased then a copy of the death certificate is required, as well. A check or money order for the fee must be included also. The fee for a first request of search is \$400.00. An additional request for search costs \$200.00. The fee for search is mandated by legislation and can be paid for with cash, check, money order or a credit card. The agency cannot use a sliding fee schedule.

Boys & Girls Aid contracts with a Searcher who is proficient, ethical, and sensitive to the confidential nature of adoption issues. When a person is located, the Searcher contacts the person by phone and mail. If the person being sought declines contact then BGAid can not contact the person again. We can provide referrals for counseling and/or support groups, if so desired. If there is no response with these first attempts then BGAid will send 2 more certified letters. If there is still no response then the person who initiated the search can contact BGAid in 3 years to perform an address check. If there is a new address then BGAid will send another letter. If the person being sought wants contact then BGAid can help facilitate contact and a reunion.

No identifying information will be released except through the registration of both parties and with the permission of each party.